

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP(CLARK, DICK)

SUBJECT: CODEL CLARK MEETING WITH SAVIMBI

REF: LUSAKA 1601

1. HERewith RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTel:

A. COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE SOUTH ARE POOR TO NONEXISTENT. MPLA LEFT SILVA PORTO SEVERAL DAYS AGO AND TRAVELLERS FROM THERE HAVE REPORTED THAT THE TOWN IS QUIET. THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY HAVE NO NEWS OF ARMED CONFLICTS SHAPING UP IN THE AREA.

B. TRAVELLING BY COMMERCIAL OR CHARTER AIRCRAFT FROM THE INTERIOR IS A HIT OR MISS PROPOSITION. PILOTS, MECHANICS, AND OTHER GROUND PERSONNEL ARE LEAVING BY THE SCORES, MAINTENANCE IS SPOTTY, THE NUMBER OF PLANES FLYING IS GREATLY REDUCED AND AVIATION GAS IS IN SHORT SUPPLY IN THE SOUTH. COMMERCIAL PLANES ARE MANY HOURS LATE AND THE SENATOR SHOULD AVOID THEM. PLANES ARE STILL FLYING, HOWEVER AND THE ORGANIZATION BEST ABLE TO ARRANGE A FLIGHT FROM SILVA PORTO WOULD BE UNITA. IF THEY SAY THEY CANNOT DO IT, I WILL TRY AND RAISE A CHARTER FIRM OVER THE WEEKEND TO SEE IF I CAN GET A FIRM COMMITMENT FOR A FLIGHT TO SILVA PORTO TO PICK UP CODEL. LET ME KNOW THE DAY THE SENATOR PROBABLY WOULD WANT TO FLY UP. THE PORTUGUESE AIR

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FORCE FLIES FREQUENTLY TO NOVA LISBOA AND I KNOW THEY WOULD

BRING THE SENATOR TO LUANDA.

C. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A PRIOR MEETING WITH SAVIMBI INSIDE ANGOLA WOULD PREJUDICE THE MEETING I HAVE SET UP WITH AGOSTINHO NOTO. NETO AND THE OTHER LEADERS IN THE MOVEMENT WILL REALIZE THAT THE SENATOR WOULD WANT TO SEE THE OTHER TWO PRESIDENTS AND I HAVE ALREADY TOLD BOTH INFORMATION CHIEF LUIS DE ALMEIDA AND PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEMBER LOPE DO NASCIMENTO THAT CLARK WILL BE MEETING SAVIMBI AND ROBERTO. A MEETING WITH SAVIMBI INSIDE ANGOLA MIGHT RAISE A FEW HACKLED, BUT AS THEY ALREADY KNOW THE SENATOR IS TO MEET WITH HIM, THEY WILL NOT BE OVERLY EXERCISED.

D. IF CODEL MAINTAINED EXISTING SCHEDULE, WE COULD ARRANGE A PLANE TO GIT HIM TO SILVA PORTO. HERE AGAIN, THE PROBLEM IS ONE OF GETTING BACK. THE DEMAND FOR THEIR SERVICES IS SO GREAT THAT CHARTER PLANES OFTEN REFUSE TO WAIT ON THE GROUND. IN THIS CASE, THE WAITING TIME SHOULD BE SO SHORT AS TO MAKIE IT UNLIKELY THE PILOT WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE ANOTHER RUN AND COME BACK. THERE STILL REMAINS THE PROBLEM OF AVIATION GAS AND I HAVE BEEN CHECKING TO FIND OUT WHAT THE AVGAS SITUATION IS IN SILVA PORTO. I SUGGEST THE EMBASSY ASK SANGUMBA IF HE KNOWS OR CAN GET IF TOUCH WITH SOMEONE OHO DOES. AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR THE SENATOR TO MEET CODEL IN NOVA LISBOA AND FLY DOWN WITH THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE. THE AIR FORCE COMMANDER IS OUT OF TOWN TODAY AND THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER WILL NOT BE AT A TELEPHONE UNTIL LATER THIS EVENING. I WILL TALK TO HIM THEN AND REPORT FURTHER.

2. I JUST TALKED WITH THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER, GENRAL MACEDO, WHO WILL CHECK ON THE AVGAS SITUATION IN BOTH SILVA PORTO AND NOVA LISBOA. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE UNITA GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS MOVED FROM SILVA TO NOVA LISBOA AND THAT IS PROBABLY WHERE SAVIMBI WILL GO. PLEASE CHECK THIS OUT WITH SANGUMBA. MACEDO ALSO SAID THAT THE AIR FORCE PLANE TO NOVA LISBOA IS IRREGULAR AND THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO MAKE A DEFINITIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH AN AIR TAXI COMPANY FOR THE FLIGHT TO LUANDA
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